

Delano, CA in 1962. The new organization eventually became the United Farm Workers of America, the first union representing farmworkers in the United States.

Under the leadership of Chavez, the United Farm Workers successfully improved the once-dismal working conditions for hundreds of thousands of farmworkers throughout the nation. These efforts brought safety improvements, pay increases, benefits and job security to workers who had been among the most exploited.

The union's efforts also brought attention to the health problems facing farmworkers, including the exposure to harmful pesticides that affect workers and their children.

An adherent to the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chavez used nonviolent means to bring about these changes including economic boycotts, marches, civil disobedience, and fasts.

Chavez once declared to his followers, 'Nonviolence is our strength.' This message still rings true as the official slogan for the United Farm Workers Union.

A winner of the highest civilian honor our Nation can bestow—the Presidential Medal of Freedom—which he received posthumously in 1994, Chavez was a true American hero. He was a hero because he spoke up for so many who could not be heard.

Chavez once commented, "It's ironic that those who till the soil, cultivate and harvest the fruits, vegetables, and other foods that fill your tables with abundance have nothing left for themselves."

His life and this day remind us that as a society we have a responsibility to protect the rights of all Americans.

As Cesar Chavez often said, "Si se puede!" Yes, we can!

Mr. DODD. Today, on the 77th anniversary of his birth, people across America will pay tribute to a remarkable man, Cesar Estrada Chavez.

I had the honor of meeting Cesar Chavez. No one was a more powerful or more passionate advocate for the men, women, and children who work on farms throughout this country.

It's easy for Americans to forget that the food they eat doesn't magically appear on a supermarket shelf. Every bunch of grapes, every box of cereal, every can of corn represents the labor for real human beings—so many of whom come to this country in search of a better life, but instead find low wages, poor housing, and substandard working conditions.

Cesar Chavez didn't just know about this struggle. He and his family lived it. He grew up moving from town to town and from school to school while his father worked in the fields. He himself became a farm worker as soon as he finished the eighth grade. Born out of his sweat and toil was a fierce determination to give a voice to people like him and his family who labored so hard and received so little in return.

Chavez became one of America's most well-known, beloved, and effective labor leaders. As the founder and leader of United Farm Workers of America, Chavez shed light on the shameful treatment of farm workers in our country. He led boycotts and marches. He helped register voters. He went on hunger strikes. And he united workers across America with a simple, yet powerful, message: "Si se puede"—"Yes we can."

Cesar Chavez represented farm workers. But the priorities he fought for are America's priorities: Better pay and benefits for workers. Better education for children. Expanded civil rights for minorities. All working Americans today owe a debt of gratitude to this outstanding individual.

Of course, Chavez's work is not done. There is still a great deal we can do to help to create a better life for working Americans, especially those who work on farms. One thing we can do right now is pass the bipartisan AgJOBS bill, which I'm proud to cosponsor. This bill, sponsored by my colleagues Senator CRAIG and Senator KENNEDY, would give many hard-working non-immigrant farm workers a chance to obtain legal status. This bill is the right thing to do for these workers. And by increasing the number of legal farm workers, it's the smart thing to do for our economy. This legislation has the support of agricultural businesses, labor unions, as well as immigrant and civil rights groups. It deserves to become law.

But there is so much more we can and should do to make America a land where each and every person receives respect and opportunity. We can extend a helping hand to the children of non-immigrant workers—by passing the DREAM Act to help those children get a college education. We can give every child in this country a chance at success—by making a real commitment to our public schools. We can ensure that a job in America is truly a gateway to a better life—by raising the minimum wage and making it a fair and living wage. And we can make access to health care a right—not a privilege—for every man, woman, and child in America.

By perpetuating his legacy, we will truly be honoring the memory of Cesar Chavez. Let us continue his commitment to achieving basic rights and dignity for all American workers. And let us use his vision as a guide as we strive to build a better tomorrow for all Americans.

#### CLARK COUNTY VICTORY IN NEVADA SCIENCE BOWL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Clark High School for its victory in the 13th Annual Nevada Regional Science Bowl. In fact, this is Clark High School's second consecutive victory in this competition.

I commend the students on this year's Clark High School team—Young

Ran, Alex Cerjanic, Yung Wang, and Ryan Weicker—for their hard work and commitment to academic excellence. I would want to recognize their coach, Beth Issacs, for her instruction and strong leadership of the team.

This past February, 32 student teams from across Nevada participated in the Nevada Regional Science Bowl. The Clark High School team performed exceptionally well and earned the honor to represent Nevada in the National Science Bowl. The team's success not only demonstrates the benefits of hard work and diligent study, but also reflects well on the students, faculty, and administrators of Clark High School.

The Department of Energy's National Science Bowl began in 1991 as part of a national initiative to encourage America's students to excel in mathematics and science. Teams of four or five students coached by a teacher must demonstrate their knowledge by answering questions related to various scientific fields. Over the past 13 years, thousands of students have participated in this competition and have demonstrated the great potential of our Nation's youth.

Please join me in congratulating Clark High School for its commitment to academic excellence and victory in the Nevada Regional Science Bowl.

#### ELMO AND NANCY MARTINELLI 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Elmo and Nancy Martinelli on their 50th wedding anniversary. These two native Nevadans have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to each other and their family for these past five decades.

Raised in Sparks, NV, Elmo and Nancy were high school sweethearts and were married on April 25, 1954. The son of Italian immigrants, Elmo served in the Army and opened a barber shop, which he owned for more than 30 years until his retirement in 1994. Nancy worked as an office secretary and bookkeeper until motherhood arrived in 1955.

Throughout their lives, Elmo and Nancy have dedicated themselves to ensuring that their children—Greg, Craig, Sheila, and Julie—could enjoy the best possible opportunities life has to offer. Their family would grow over time to include five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

As their children grew and moved on to college, the Martinellis created a new and no less active life, which included regular weekly golf games, improvement and maintenance of their home, and worldwide travel. In fact, Elmo and Nancy have traveled throughout the United States in their motor home, visited most of Europe and the Far East, and have taken cruises on most of the world's major bodies of water.

In the mid-1990s, the couple sold their Reno home where they had lived for 39 years and embarked on a new adventure: the construction of their dream